

**BAPTIST PRESS**

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WASHINGTON W. Barry Garrett, Editor/200 Maryland Ave., N.E./Washington, D.C. 20002/Telephone (202) 544-4226**Baptist Chaplain Sends
Viet Nam Girl To U.S.**

DA NANG, Viet Nam (BP)--A 16-year-old Vietnamese high school girl who wants to study medicine will complete her high school education and hopefully attend medical school in the United States, thanks to a Southern Baptist chaplain and his family.

Doan Thi Ai Lan (Ah Lan) is going to America under sponsorship of Navy Lieutenant Cecil R. Threadgill of Pilot Point, Tex., a chaplain with Marine Aircraft Group (MAG)-11, First Marine Aircraft Wing (1st MAW) here.

Ai Lan will live with Chaplain Threadgill's wife and two teen-age daughters in Pilot Point, about 40 miles north of Dallas.

The chaplain's daughters originally wanted him to adopt a little Vietnamese orphan.

"After corresponding with my wife, we felt it would be better to sponsor a girl our daughters age, and help further her education," he said.

He began looking for a girl who spoke and read English well. This way language would not be too large an obstacle.

Through relations with Tin Lanh Church, Chaplain Threadgill was introduced to Ai Lan.

In February of 1966 he met with Ai Lan and her parents. They granted permission for Ai Lan to go and the process began.

Letters were sent requesting acceptance at Gee High School in Pilot Point, Tex. In addition, both governments required different applications from Ai Lan and Chaplain Threadgill.

School authorities showed concern about Ai Lan's course of study until receiving a list of her subjects and class standing.

Ai Lan is considered third in a class of 50 to 60 students. Last year, her sophomore year, Ai Lan studied French, English, Vietnamese, Vietnam's history and geography, algebra, geometry, chemistry, physics and science. She averaged from first to fifth in class standing.

Ai Lan is looking forward to her trip and subsequent study in America. If her student visa can be renewed each year she hopes to study medicine and become a doctor. After attaining this she plans to return to Vietnam.

The shy, slender girl when asked about going to America replied, "I want to study in America. I am very anxious and nervous about going. There are so many, many other things I would also like to see and do while I am there."

The chaplain's daughters are anxiously awaiting Ai Lan's arrival. His only worry is that they will rush her around in the American high-speed manner. "I feel that might be the hardest part of her adjustment," he commented.

Ai Lan is corresponding with Gloria, 17, the chaplain's oldest daughter, particularly about clothes she will need.

She enjoys sewing and is making some of her clothes.

Gloria asked Ai Lan to also bring her native clothes with her. Mrs. Threadgill will insure a suitable wardrobe for Texas weather after her arrival.

The younger Threadgill daughter, 14-year-old Gay, said she was quite excited about having a foreign visitor live with them in Pilot Point, a small community near Denton, Tex.

Chaplain Threadgill was pastor of the Calvary (Southern Baptist) Church in Pilot Point, Tex., in 1960.

Ai Lan is not the first member of her family to go to America. Her seven cousins preceded her when her uncle accepted a position with the Voice of America in 1965. They live in Alexandria, Va.

Chaplain Threadgill will be assigned to the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Md. when he rotates early next year. Ai Lan and his family will join him when school closes in June 1967. This will give Ai Lan a chance to see her cousins and more of America.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Ai Lan probably will arrive in the U.S. in early November. If the story is used after the first week in November, you may want to change verbs to past tense.

BP PHOTO to be mailed to state Baptist paper editors, available to others on request.

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Young Pastor Dies
In Car-Train Crash

10/12/66

FORT WORTH (BP)--A 28-year-old Texas Baptist pastor and student at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary was killed near here Oct. 10 when his car was sliced in two by a Santa Fe passenger train.

John Henry Culpepper, pastor of the First Baptist Church, Muenster, Tex., was fatally injured at a railroad crossing north of Fort Worth as he journeyed to Gainesville, Tex., to attend an annual Baptist associational meeting.

A sheriff's deputy said the 13-car passenger train struck Culpepper's vehicle with such force that it cut the car into two pieces.

A native of Glen Rose, Tex., Culpepper is a 1963 graduate of Howard Payne College (Baptist), Brownwood, Tex., and was completing his last year's work on a bachelor of divinity degree at Southwestern Baptist Seminary.

His wife is an elementary school teacher in Fort Worth, and his parents reside in Glen Rose, Tex.

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Visiting Lecturers
At Seminary Listed

10/12/66

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP)--Seven outstanding Christian leaders will address the students, faculty and friends of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary during the coming academic year in the seminary's major lectureship program.

Howard Grimes, professor of Christian education at the Southern Methodist University Perkins School of Theology in Dallas, will deliver the Gheens Lectures in religious education. (Oct. 20-21.)

Thor Johnson, director of the Interlochen Academy, a school of fine arts in Michigan, will deliver Gheens Lectures in church music. (Oct. 25-27)

Other Gheens Lecturers scheduled thus far are Eduard Schweizer of Zurich, Switzerland, March 20-21, 1967; H. W. Connelly, secretary of Training Union work for Virginia Baptists, March 23-24, 1967; and J. Robert Nelson of Boston University School of Theology, April 5-7, 1967.

The Mullins Lectures on preaching will feature Elam Davis, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago, March 7-10. Concurrently with his appearance, Wayne E. Oates, professor of psychology of religion at Southern Seminary, will deliver the annual Norton Lectures on science, philosophy and religion.

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Jazz, Folk Song Used
To Communicate To Youth

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--As part of an address outlining solutions to "a widening communications gap between churches and university students," students at Oklahoma Baptist University heard a special jazz or folk song composition written especially for the occasion.

Earlier, the director of communications for the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma had called for updated language in prayers, in the pulpit, and in church music as possible solutions to the widening communications gap.

As a part of the chapel address by Floyd Craig of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma Baptist Church Music Secretary Gene Bartlett sang the jazz composition, accompanied by a quartet of string and percussion instrumentalists.

Students joined in a "sing along" on the chorus of the composition, entitled: "God Has Something To Say To You."

The unique approach resulted in an overwhelming response by the students, and faculty, said Craig.

During the address, the Oklahoma Baptist communications leader told the 1,500 students that churches and college students are communicating, but on different wave lengths.

Religious jargon used by ministers in their sermons, antiquated rhythm patterns and irrelevant language of church music, and confusing Christian symbols have helped to create a communications gap between the churches and the students, he said.

Although placing major blame on the church's doorstep, Craig noted that college students have also contributed to the communications gap by wanting to be "credit card Christians," enjoying the glory now, but not wanting to pay the price until later.

The 33-year-old Oklahoma Baptist leader, who also is vice chairman of the Southern Baptist Convention public relations advisory committee, called on students to explore creatively new and "even revolutionary ways" of communicating the message of Christianity.

"There needs to be much examination to see if the 11 o'clock service on Sunday morning is the only time and way to use the Lord's Day to communicate his eternal truths to the inquiring mind," Craig said.

As alternative approaches to the conventional type of sermon, Craig proposed preaching for ten minutes and then throwing the service open for questions or using a dramatic presentation "with all the theatrical know-how we have in the 1960's."

Competing with sermons for alienating pew occupants from participation in worship is the type of music used in many churches, Craig pointed out.

"Music should communicate in understandable terms.

"Such songs as 'Breathe On Me' may have significance to the veteran church members, but university students probably think of Listerine and Lavoris.

"What is wrong with a man with a guitar singing some new Christian folk songs relevant to the new age?" he asked.

Craig also questioned the effectiveness of many traditional Christian symbols in their ability to communicate in the 20th Century.

Churches might risk criticism if they tried substituting the electric chair for the cross as a symbol of Christ's death, "but all effective communications run the risk of upsetting," he said.

"Somehow the symbol of big buildings must also be overcome," he continued. "Churches must move out of themselves to communicate with people outside their doors, and say: 'We care about you and your problems.'"

The clearest symbol needed today, Craig summed up, is the symbol of a life committed to Christ.

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Bahamian Student Elected
Oklahoma College BSU Head

SHAWNEE, Okla. (BP)--A Bahamian who sums up his impressions of America and its people as "wonderful," has become the first international student to serve as president of the Oklahoma Baptist University Baptist Student Union organization.

Melvin Rahming, a 23-year-old senior from Nassau in the Bahamas, is the first Negro to serve as president of the Baptist Student Union at Oklahoma Baptist University.

In Nashville, the head of the department of student work for the Baptist Sunday School Board, David K. Alexander, said it was the first time to his knowledge that a Negro has been elected president of a Baptist Student Union organization among Southern Baptists, and particularly on a Baptist campus.

Rahming first heard about Oklahoma Baptist University two summers ago when an Oklahoma Baptist University student, Vicki Carden of Fort Worth, visited a missionary family in Nassau.

Deciding to attend college and get his degree in the United States, Rahming wrote to several schools but received word he was too late to enroll for the fall semester. Oklahoma Baptist University (OBU), however, responded with application forms and accepted his.

Rahming said that adjusting to American culture has not been too difficult for him because Nassau is the most "Americanized" of the island groups. English, in some dialect or other, is the native tongue.

Rahming said he considers American people to be "open minded, frank, reliable--and wonderful."

He is a member of the Immanuel Baptist Church (Southern Baptist) in Shawnee.

Rahming plans to return to Nassau after graduation to teach school, and hopes to do graduate study in the United States before returning home.

Summarizing his life at OBU, Rahming said: "I think that experiences I am undergoing here, especially the view I am having of educational, religious and social aspects of American life and the meaningful relationships that I am continuing to have with individuals, will influence for good the direction and the purpose of my life."

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BP PHOTO OF RAHMING to be mailed to state Baptist papers.

CUTLINE, photo with story mailed 10/12/66

BP PHOTO

FIRST NEGRO BSU PRESIDENT AT BAPTIST SCHOOL: Melvin Rahming, a native of Nassau in the Bahamas, is the first Negro to serve as president of the Baptist Student Union at Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee, and is believed to be the first Negro B.S.U. president at a Southern Baptist college or university. (BP PHOTO)